



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

*Ans*

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/787,514	03/19/2001	Vesa-Matti Jokinen	P-277904/299	2341

909 7590 07/13/2004  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP  
P.O. BOX 10500  
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

*8*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/787,514

**Applicant(s)**

JOKINEN, VESA-MATTI

**Examiner**

Barry W Taylor

**Art Unit**

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al (6,377,938 hereinafter Block) in view of Alfred (6,393,275).

Regarding claims 1 and 7. Block teaches a system and method of billing subscribers in a telecommunication network, wherein subscriber has billing accounts that are charged when services of the telecommunication network are used (abstract), comprising:

at least one subscriber billing group having at least two subscribers (col. 13 line 56 – col. 14 line 9);

assigning each subscriber a billing account in a billing database (col. 6 lines 39-44, col. 7 lines 45-50, col. 12 lines 20-240).

According to Applicant's, Block uses single account verses separate accounts for each subscriber (see paper number 7, page 2 lines 1-7, dated 4/16/2004).

Alfred teaches billing for parent and extension telephones sharing same billing number (abstract). Alfred discloses that single account (see 308 figure 3A) for parent phone (see 300 figure 3A which is account of parent phone 112 shown in figure 1) may

Art Unit: 2643

be used for each customer owning telephones (see customer telephones 114 and 112 in figure 1 sharing common account 308 located in figure 3A, col. 4 lines 6-9) which is similar to that of Block. Next, Alfred discloses that each customer owning telephones (114 and 122 figure 1) having same billing data (see 308 figure 3B) may be charged separately by using assigned billing account (see billing account 372 assigned to customer having telephony device 114 and billing account 392 assigned to another customer having telephony device 122---figure 3B). In other words, instead of using single account for all customers, Alfred uses assigned billing account for each customer so that each customer may be billed separately for services the customers have subscribed (col. 4 lines 34-42).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the invention as taught by Block to incorporate separate billing account assigned to each customer sharing same telephone billing number as taught by Alfred for the benefit of allowing plurality of customers sharing same billing number to be billed for the services that they subscribe to and use as taught by Alfred column 4 lines 34-42.

Regarding claims 2 and 8. Block teaches telecommunication environment (col. 3 line 67).

Regarding claims 3 and 9. Block does not explicitly show a master subscriber.

Alfred teaches billing for parent and extension telephones sharing same billing number (abstract). Alfred discloses that single account (see 308 figure 3A) for parent

Art Unit: 2643

phone (see 300 figure 3A which is account of parent phone 112 shown in figure 1) may be used for each customer owning telephones (see customer telephones 114 and 112 in figure 1 sharing common account 308 located in figure 3A, col. 4 lines 6-9) which is similar to that of Block. Next, Alfred discloses that each customer owning telephones (114 and 122 figure 1) having same billing data (see 308 figure 3B) may be charged separately by using assigned billing account (see billing account 372 assigned to customer having telephony device 114 and billing account 392 assigned to another customer having telephony device 122---figure 3B). In other words, instead of using single account for all customers, Alfred uses assigned billing account for each customer so that each customer may be billed separately for services the customers have subscribed (col. 4 lines 34-42).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the invention as taught by Block to incorporate separate billing account assigned to each customer sharing same telephone billing number as taught by Alfred for the benefit of allowing plurality of customers sharing same billing number to be billed for the services that they subscribe to and use as taught by Alfred column 4 lines 34-42.

Regarding claims 4 and 10. Block teaches using limited balance (see col. 6 line 37 "subscriber's usable balance").

Regarding claims 5 and 11. Block teaches prepayment account and/or account equipped with a credit limit (col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 7 lines 5-67).

Art Unit: 2643

Regarding claims 6 and 12. Block does not teach master subscriber. However, Block discloses group billing permitting subscribers to charge telephone, paging, cellular, and other communication services to a single account. For example, all charges from the Billing Group (BG) can be charged to a main billing number and the Class Of Service (COS) can be established by the main billing number (col.14 lines 4-9).

Alfred teaches billing for parent and extension telephones sharing same billing number (abstract). Alfred discloses that single account (see 308 figure 3A) for parent phone (see 300 figure 3A which is account of parent phone 112 shown in figure 1) may be used for each customer owning telephones (see customer telephones 114 and 112 in figure 1 sharing common account 308 located in figure 3A, col. 4 lines 6-9) which is similar to that of Block. Next, Alfred discloses that each customer owning telephones (114 and 122 figure 1) having same billing data (see 308 figure 3B) may be charged separately by using assigned billing account (see billing account 372 assigned to customer having telephony device 114 and billing account 392 assigned to another customer having telephony device 122---figure 3B). In other words, instead of using single account for all customers, Alfred uses assigned billing account for each customer so that each customer may be billed separately for services the customers have subscribed (col. 4 lines 34-42).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the invention as taught by Block to incorporate separate billing account assigned to each customer sharing same telephone billing number as

Art Unit: 2643

taught by Alfred for the benefit of allowing plurality of customers sharing same billing number to be billed for the services that they subscribe to and use as taught by Alfred column 4 lines 34-42.

Regarding claims 13-14. Block does not teach master subscriber. However, Block teaches credit limit (col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 7 lines 5-67).

Alfred teaches billing for parent and extension telephones sharing same billing number (abstract). Alfred discloses that single account (see 308 figure 3A) for parent phone (see 300 figure 3A which is account of parent phone 112 shown in figure 1) may be used for each customer owning telephones (see customer telephones 114 and 112 in figure 1 sharing common account 308 located in figure 3A, col. 4 lines 6-9) which is similar to that of Block. Next, Alfred discloses that each customer owning telephones (114 and 122 figure 1) having same billing data (see 308 figure 3B) may be charged separately by using assigned billing account (see billing account 372 assigned to customer having telephony device 114 and billing account 392 assigned to another customer having telephony device 122---figure 3B). In other words, instead of using single account for all customers, Alfred uses assigned billing account for each customer so that each customer may be billed separately for services the customers have subscribed (col. 4 lines 34-42).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the invention as taught by Block to incorporate separate billing account assigned to each customer sharing same telephone billing number as

Art Unit: 2643

taught by Alfred for the benefit of allowing plurality of customers sharing same billing number to be billed for the services that they subscribe to and use as taught by Alfred column 4 lines 34-42.

Regarding claims 15-17. Block discloses the present invention is not limited to wireline subscribers (see figure 5a, col. 16 lines 10-27). Alfred also teaches wireless environment being used (see figure 1 wherein parent telephony device 112 shares same billing number as other telephony devices 114 and 112).

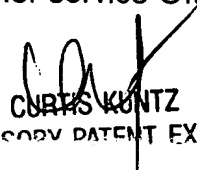
### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W Taylor whose telephone number is (703) 305-4811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 customer service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

  
CURTIS KUNTZ  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

30